



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Mark J. Belton, Secretary
Frank W. Dawson, III, Deputy Secretary

The monitoring and tagging program for all Atlantic Bluefin Tuna, Swordfish, Billfish and Sharks landed in Maryland, has been continued for 2015.

As part of the coastal effort to improve monitoring and catch estimates of recreational catches of Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT), swordfish, billfish (white marlin, blue marlin and sailfish), and sharks (including Atlantic sharpnose, bull, common thresher, great and scalloped hammerhead, porbeagle, shortfin mako, smooth dogfish, and tiger, among others), Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) has designed a program to monitor these species landed at Maryland ports. This program continues to require mandatory reporting and tagging of all BFT, swordfish, billfish, and sharks landed by recreational fishermen in Maryland during the 2015 season. During this time a landing card and tag system will be utilized.

For information on Atlantic swordfish and billfish identification, please see:

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/species/billfish/documents/hms_swo_billfish_id_guide_aug_2012.pdf . In 2013, sharks were added to the catch card program. For information on shark identification, please see:

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/species/sharks/shark_id_placard.pdf . **Dusky sharks are prohibited. If you cannot identify the species, you must release it.**

The following procedures will be used in Maryland during this period:

1. No private vessel recreational anglers or charterboat/headboats can fish for or keep an Atlantic bluefin tuna, swordfish or billfish without first obtaining an HMS permit from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).
2. All successful anglers are required to complete a Maryland Bluefin Tuna Landing Card ; Maryland Billfish Landing Card; or Maryland Shark Landing Card. Landing cards can be obtained from Maryland DNR (MDNR) approved reporting stations; return the card(s) to one of the MDNR approved reporting stations in the Ocean City area to obtain a landing tag. This tag must be affixed to the BFT, swordfish, billfish, or shark prior to its removal from the vessel. Those BFT, swordfish, billfish, or shark on board trailered vessels will be required to have the tag affixed to the fish before the vessel can be removed from the water. If you land a shark on the beach, please take it to the nearest reporting station to get a card and tag. Landing cards will also be available from the MDNR Oceanside Field Station in Ocean City, MD (410) 213-1531.
3. The Landing Card will require a minimum amount of time to complete. The edge on all landing cards includes a receipt that can be removed for the permit holder.
4. Reporting During Regular Business Hours:

Maryland approved BFT/Swordfish/billfish/shark reporting stations:

1. Atlantic Tackle, Ocean City, MD (410) 213-0421 (Formerly Ake Marine)
2. Bahia Marina, Ocean City, MD (410) 289-7438
3. Fisherman's Marina, Ocean City, MD (410) 213-2478
4. Ocean City Fishing Center, Ocean City, MD (410) 213-1121
5. Talbot Street Pier & Marina, Ocean City, MD (410) 289-9125
6. White Marlin Marina, Ocean City, MD (410) 289-6470
7. Sunset Marina, Ocean City, MD (410) 213-9600
8. Pines Point Provisions and Seafood, Ocean Pines, MD (410) 641-2248

Maryland approved shark-only reporting stations:

1. Buck's Place 11848 Assateague Rd. Berlin, MD 21811 (443) 513-4661
2. Alltackle 12826 B Ocean Gateway Ocean City, MD 21842 (410) 213-2840

After-Hours Reporting

After-hours reporting kiosk at: MDNR Oceanside Field Station, 12917 Harbor Road, Ocean City, MD. Tear off the receipt (you keep) after writing the same information on it as the card. Place the card into the locked box. This receipt serves the same function as a tag. Use this kiosk only when the marinas are closed. (**No Tags will be available at the kiosk.*)